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# 3 Girls From Sonoma State Home, Eldridge, Flee From Institution; One Drowns

**Rain-swollen waters of Sonoma creek claimed the lives of one and probably two girls fleeing from the Sonoma State Home for the Feeble Minded. A third girl was rescued as the torrent was sweeping her away. The girls, fleeing in a heavy downpour, leaped into the stream and sought to get to the opposite shore when they saw attendants of the hospital in pursuit.** The lifeless body of Pauline McCling, 14, of San Jose, was recovered 300 yards downstream from where she leaped into the water.

Erma Parsons, 18, of Fresno, was saved and was placed in the institution's infirmary suffering from submersion and exposure.

Dr. Fred O. Butler, superintendent of the home, said that Helen Hooker, 22, of Grass Valley, probably was drowned. When attendants last saw her she was struggling feebly against the creek's rushing waters. No trace of her had been found Sunday night.

Ordinarily Sonoma creek is a meandering stream, but heavy rains had sent it raging out of its banks.

The girls were working in the institution's nursery cottage when they fled late in the afternoon. Their flight was discovered almost at once and attendants followed their tracks the short distance to the point where the girls leaped into the stream.

# California Tax Bill Largest

LOS ANGELES, March 31. (AP)—The average tax bill in California is 25 per cent greater than in the nation as a whole, the California Taxpayers' association reports.

The association said the average tax bill per person in California was $137.74 compared with $109 nationally. By political subdivisions:

Federal — California $45.65, nation $39.

State — California $47.56, nation $27.

Local—California $44.53, nation $43.

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